

# Alternatives To Work Experience

Ideas to Investigate – Inspire - Action!

## **Volunteer Programmes partnering with local/national/international charities**

Invest in a model that engages with a charitable organisation around an annual project or aim. Embed this into curriculum at stage 4/5 to develop critical thinking and foundational skills in a practical way! By embedding this into school across a full year, it provides a stable platform for students to develop skills, relationships and valuable knowledge of what lies ahead in adulthood.

## **Adopt-a-Class / Adopt-a-School**

Have a business “adopt” a class, school or year group. This can result in regular interactions with the cohort both in and out of the school environment with various levels of the business and its personnel being able to share and engage with the students. These partnerships are an investment and taken time and need to be nurtured. Look to connect with services that can broker these relationships and strengthen what you offer to your students. Knowledge is power!

## **Work Inspiration**

Download the tool kit and adapt the resources to fit your school. This can be done in a day or across multiple days to provide regular career centric stimulation to students and engagement with industry as well as the development of foundational skills.

## **Youth-Run Businesses/Entrepreneurship**

By internally linking students with the P&C association, you are able to combine mentoring and learning as well as career exploration through activities developed to return benefit back into the school setting. Think beyond fundraising!

## **Job Shadowing**

Job shadowing is an activity in which youth gain an up-close look at the world of work by accompanying a professional or professionals in the workplace as they do their work. Job shadowing provides an opportunity to see firsthand what tasks a professional does, to learn what skills and knowledge it takes to do the tasks, and to get a feel for what the work environment and routine is like. It may be a one-on-one activity, in which one youth is paired with one professional, or it can be a group activity in which a small group of youth accompanies the professional. While this experience may be as short as a few hours, a half-day to full-day opportunity is ideal and some job shadowing experiences last for more than one day. A longer job shadowing experience ensures that youth have enough time to get familiar with the work environment, meet various people who work there, and learn about the work that they do. It also provides a chance for the youth to observe the professional who is being shadowed and his/her co-workers completing a range of tasks.

